Remarks

Claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 19 are rewritten in independent form as above described.

Claims 1 and 19 also correct for the claim objections and "112" rejections set forth in numbered paragraphs 4-6 of the Office Action.

Concerning claim 9 please note:

The meaning of "diametrical opposite" in this claim is "completely opposite". There are three spring elements 67 of ring element 57 and 3 spring elements (main springs) 41 of sleeve 29. Each single spring element 67 is arranged in a completely opposite way to its corresponding single element 41 so that on latching a coaxial arrangement to the optical axis of the housing is obtained.

Spring elements 67 and 41 can clearly be seen in Figure 3.

Therefore no Amendment of the Figures or canceling of claim 9 should be necessary.

Wherefore further consideration of the claims as currently amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>December 15, 2004</u>.

M. Robert Kestenbacon

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